Coal India Limited during the last three years were as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

year	Losses suffered
1983-84	242.58
1984-85	78.03
1985-86	Accounts not yet finalised.

High prices of medicines

2579. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of large and medium scale drug units are marketing their products at very high prices after getting them manufactured from small scale units who are exempted under Drugs Price Control Order, 1979;

(b) what were the medicines introduced in the market under this arrangement from 1st November, 1985 to 31st October. 1986 alongwith the names of the products and the retail price of each; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government, to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (c) Instances of large and medium scale drug units marketing their products after getting them manufactured by small scale units who are exempted from seeking price approval for category III products under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 have come to the notice of the Government. Such units are free to make marketing arrangements with other units under the law. The entire scheme of price control is under examination of Government.

(b) This information is not readily available. Collection of this information will involve considerable time and labour and the results likely to be achieved will not be in commensurate with the time and efforts involved in the collection of this information.

Non compliance of DPCO

2580. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than four thousand drug companies whose sales turn over crossed the exempted limit as per DPCO, 1979 since last five: years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of these companies have not taken price approval of their products and are charging their own prices which are very exor-bitent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have not taken penal action against anyone, as per the order; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefore and what is the purpose of drug price control order ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No such details are available with the Government. As and when instance of any unit crossing the limit of Rs. 50 lacs in sales turnover come to the notice of the Government, such, unit is issued a notice and is advised to seek price approval.

(b) to (d) In early 1985 instances of number of units having crossed the limit of Rs. 50 lacs in sales turn over came to the notice of the Government. Notices were issued to all such units and they were advised to seek price approval of their existing products. Following this advice a number of units have since taken the price approval.